



## PrepVet Course

# Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation for Veterinarians

### About the PrepVet Course

In recent years, the incidence of disasters and emergencies has increased significantly, resulting not only in the loss of human and animal life, but also in significant economic and social impacts and changes in the environment, resulting in even more serious problems for communities.

Aspects related to natural phenomena, such as hydrometeorological, volcanic and geophysical hazards, as well as anthropogenic processes (use of new technologies, hazardous materials, armed conflicts, among others) are some of the causes that can lead to disasters or emergencies in the exposed places, but the addition of this created vulnerability and the exposure to other risks that have been building up, or are unresolved, cause the generation and increase of disasters in the world.

Clearly, many hazards cannot be avoided, but work can be done to reduce the vulnerability of communities and people at risk to achieve real disaster reduction. This is the objective of the course, to work on real risk management and reduction, which implies knowledge of the environment, of the phenomena that generate emergencies, but also of the characteristics and real capacities that are available to work on the prevention and mitigation of those aspects that make us vulnerable to emergencies; without leaving aside, the preparation processes, so that if the threat does appear, we can respond adequately and our losses are minimal or nil, managing to protect what we know we do not want to lose.

Starting with these strategies, focused on protecting and safeguarding our animals, is an important pillar of this course, as they not only play a role of companionship and protection but also of vital means of subsistence for many families whose activities depend on the productivity and proper maintenance of their animals, who also suffer the ravages of a disaster. Understanding this idea will help not only to work for the animals and their well-being but also, in a direct way, to guarantee the social, economic, emotional, food and environmental security of people and achieve a true resilience of the communities by directing them and transforming them into an example of genuine sustainable development.

To this end, the contents of the online PrepVet course, available on the *Moodle* platform, will be divided into three core topics:

- Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and management
- Climate change adaptation
- Basic care of animals during emergencies



Topics related to disaster definitions, and concepts related to risk management, risk reduction and climate change are covered. In addition, it seeks to present a new perspective on the role of the veterinary doctor in this sense and the steps needed to carry out actions of identification, mapping and risk analysis.

It includes the study of international standards and guidelines that contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of emergency interventions, focused on safeguarding the livelihoods of people affected by an emergency.

It also addresses issues related to basic aspects of emergency care and animal management.

The course is currently available in Spanish and will soon be available in English and Portuguese.

## 2. Course Contents

### 1. Disaster Risk Management: Basic concepts and terminology

Presents the terminology, concepts, and scope of risk management, required to promote the analysis and planning of disaster risk reduction projects.

### 2. Disaster Risk Reduction Analysis and Plans

Offers the necessary methodological tools to analyze and prioritize risks, evaluate available resources, design strategies to address them, and finally implement a solution.

### 3. Companion Animals

Illustrates the role of the veterinarian in the training of more responsible and capable owners to include their pets in a family emergency plan.

### 4. Climate change adaptation

Identifies indicators of climate change, how it affects communities and their animals, and the adaptation actions must be implemented to counteract its negative effects.

### 5. Safety in Emergencies

Outlines the physical and emotional dangers to which an individual who is actively involved in emergency operations is exposed, as well as the measures that must be taken to avoid these risks.

### 6. Incident Command System

Introduces the Incident Command System as a common organizational structure that manages the resources allocated to effectively achieve the objectives relevant to an event.



### 7. Triage

Introduces triage as a tool for prioritizing individuals affected by an adverse event, in order to streamline patient flow and achieve more effective veterinary assistance during a disaster.

### 8. Animal evacuation process

Outlines the different actions that specialized rescue teams must carry out to evacuate animals during a disaster situation, following basic animal welfare regulations.

### 9. Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Interventions in Emergencies: Introduction to LEGS

Introduces the LEGS system as a set of international guidelines for the design, implementation and evaluation of livestock interventions to assist people affected by a disaster.

### 10. Role of the veterinary doctor

Reviews the role of the veterinarian in risk management, emphasizing the promotion of proper management of the animals, their environment and resources, as well as risk mitigation strategies at the farm and clinic levels.

### 11. Animal Welfare

Introduces animal welfare as an interdisciplinary, multifaceted and complex science, based on animal sentience and therefore seeks its physical and mental well-being.

## 3. Are you interested in PrepVet?

PrepVet is available to Veterinary Medical Schools, Ministries of Agriculture, Civil Defense and other organizations interested in training veterinarians and other stakeholders in risk management within a disaster preparedness and care framework.

If you are interested in offering the PrepVet Online Course, please contact us for more information. The course is free for those entities that wish to replicate it, but may have a cost for the final user, depending on the type of certification desired.

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